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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 18 | Humidity 40% Mostly sunny Sensex 84,695 | Nifty 25,942 | Gold 1,35,042 | Silver 2,25,121 | Dollar 89.87 | Euro 105.74 | GBP 121.27

FINE PRINT

Menstrual leave may have been okayed, but there are riders: It can't be combined with any other kind of leave or carried forward if unused

PAGE 2

FAR THINKING

City-wide survey of dry and dangerous trees is done and now GBA set to start removal of all dead/ hazardous trees before next monsoon

PAGE 4

Yes, there is a section of the city that actually prefers to ring in the new year with some quiet, offline camaraderie — meet the board gamers, who have already chalked out a party plan

BOARD MEETING

Clubs pop up everywhere as screen fatigue sets in

Iffath.Fathima
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Saisha Raj knows exactly how she plans to celebrate New Year's Eve. The software engineer and other members of the Card n Dice board game club that she founded are excited to ring in 2026 with fun, laughter, and offline camaraderie.

Board game clubs in Bengaluru are more than just entertainment -- they are fostering community, mental engagement, and a screen-free escape, proving that a game board can be as compelling as any digital device.

"I'm really looking forward to celebrating New Year's Eve with a board game night. Instead of the usual loud parties, we'll spend the evening playing board games, laughing, and connecting with fellow gamers.

It's a great way to unwind, enjoy some screen-free time, and start 2026 on a fun and meaningful note," said Vinayak S, an architect by profession.

Like Vinayak, many in the city are drawn to the slow life. As urban lifestyles get increasingly dominated by screens and digital fatigue, board games are making a remarkable comeback in Bengaluru. Across the city, informal communities and board game clubs are springing up, offering residents an opportunity to socialise, stimulate their minds, and unwind offline. This is why this New Year's Eve, many enthusiasts are choosing indoor board game sessions over loud parties, valuing meaningful interaction, cognitive engagement, and screen-free bonding.

Sam, Admin, HSRmeetups, said, "We have a special

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

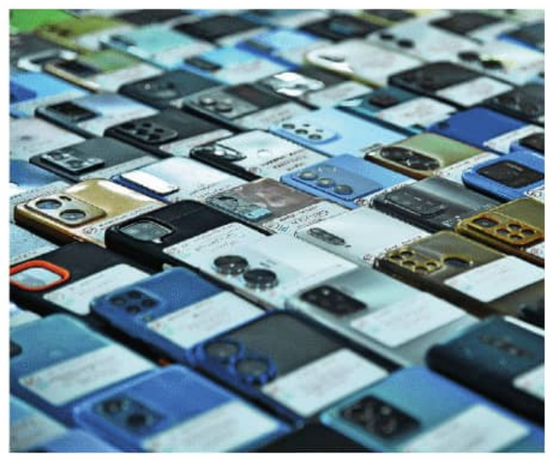
PAGE 5
>> RESTRICTIONS & SECURITY DETAILS
>> GETAWAY RUSH

"Instead of the usual loud parties, we'll spend the evening playing board games, laughing, and connecting with fellow gamers. It's a great way to unwind, enjoy some screen-free time, and start 2026 on a fun and meaningful note

—Vinayak S, architect

One phone stolen every 2 minutes

Mobile phone-snatching gangs remain hyper active in busy zones of city that has reported 1.79 lakh stolen phones in 8 months



Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

Bengaluru's mobile theft problem has exploded, with 1.79 lakh phones reported stolen in just eight months — an average of 747 thefts every day, 31 every hour, and one every two minutes. The scale of the crisis underscores the growing reach of organised networks operating across crowded public spaces and highlights the persistent challenges in recovering stolen devices despite improved digital tracking systems.

Mobile-snatching gangs remain highly active in busy zones such as bus stands, railway stations, temple premises, fairs and other high-density public areas. Police say thieves commonly target pedestrians, women, senior citizens and people walking alone, often using two-wheelers to execute quick snatch-and-escape moves. Some gangs adopt signal-blocking methods like wrapping stolen phones in aluminium foil, making them immediately switch off or appear unreachable, which delays tracking and gives thieves enough time to flee. In a recent crackdown, City Market Police arrested 42 such offenders and seized 1,949 stolen mobiles.

CEIR records up to August reveal 1,79,285 mobile theft cases, of which, 84,942 phones were traced using advanced

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 >>

THINGS TO DO

01 Play time

Atta Galatta is presenting The Star, by Bangalore Little Theatre Foundation, which follows a heartwarming story about forgotten dreams and the magic of second chances. **Where: Atta Galatta, Indiranagar; When: January 3, 7 pm**

02 Amped up

Windmills welcomes the New Year with an electrifying live performance by Thermal And A Quarter (TAAQ), promising a high-energy celebration that blends rock, blues, funk, pop, and retro influences into a powerful, groove-driven experience. **Where: Windmills, Whitefield; When: December 31, 9.30 pm**

03 Emotions unplugged

Known for his soulful vocals and heartfelt compositions, Gajendra Verma will be performing live, bringing a night of music, emotions, and memories. **Where: Orion Mall, Rajajinagar; When: February 7, 6 pm**

04 Dad life decoded

Jaspreet Singh will be taking the stage to talk about his wildest job yet - being a father, navigating his innate irresponsible nature to the absurdities of modern parenting, in a show about men, fatherhood, love and loss. **Where: Alliance Francaise, Vasanth Nagar; When: January 31, February 1, 8 pm**

05 Lyrical voyage

Piyush Mishra will be performing live as part of the Aarambh 2.0 India Tour, redefining live performance by blending music, poetry, and theatre into an unforgettable experience. **Where: Phoenix Marketcity, Whitefield; When: January 17, 7 pm**

No misuse of leave, period

One-day menstrual leave cannot be availed along with other leaves and cannot be carried over if unused in same month, says Karnataka govt circular; officials say rule aims to standardise implementation and avoid misapplication

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharvMirror

The Karnataka government has extended the benefit of one day of menstrual leave per month to women employees but the fine print of the order has sparked concern among employees. While the move is aimed at supporting women's well-being at the workplace, the biggest rider is that the leave cannot be combined with any other kind of leave and must be used within the same month.

According to Circular No 1746, issued in line with earlier government orders dated December 2 and November 12, the facility will come into effect from January 1, 2026. Eligible women employees aged between 18 and 52 years who are menstruating can avail one day of menstrual leave every month. The leave does not require submission of a medical certificate and can be sanctioned by the authority competent to approve casual leave.

However, the circular clearly states that menstrual leave cannot be clubbed with any other leave and cannot be carried forward to the next month if unused. It must be recorded separately in the leave or attendance register. While the policy has been welcomed in principle, several women employees say the rigid conditions reduce its practical value. "On paper, it looks progressive, but in reality it is restrictive," said a woman employee of a state corporation, requesting anonymity. "If my period coincides with a festival or a family emergency, I cannot combine this leave with casual leave. If I am already unwell for more than a day, this one-day leave does not really help," she said.

Employee groups also point out that the inability to carry forward the leave ignores the fact that menstrual discomfort may not occur on the same day every month. "Many women will end up not using the leave at all because of these conditions," another employee said.

Officials say the circular is meant to standardise implementation and avoid misuse. All concerned authorities have been directed to strictly follow the order. As the policy comes into force next year, women employees hope the government will review the conditions and make the benefits more flexible and meaningful on the ground.

Female employees say rigid conditions reduce practical value of leave, pointing out its inefficacy during festivals, emergencies, or extended illness without option to combine leaves

Only Waqf Board can remove members, says HC

The Karnataka High Court has held that a managing committee of a waqf institution does not have the legal authority to remove its own members, ruling that such power rests solely with the State Waqf Board under the Waqf Act, 1995.

The decision came while hearing a petition filed by Abdul Sattar and others, who challenged their removal from the managing committee of Badariya Jumma Masjid. The petitioners argued that the committee acted beyond its statutory powers by passing resolutions to oust them without following the procedure prescribed under law.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj, who heard the matter, examined the relevant provisions of the Waqf Act and the Karnataka Waqf Rules, 2017. The court observed that managing committee members fall within the definition of "mutawalli" and that only the Waqf Board is empowered to appoint or remove a mutawalli. The law clearly lays down specific grounds and a structured process for removal, which must be followed strictly.

The court rejected the argument that the managing committee could remove members on its own, even in cases involving allegations of serious misconduct. As a result, the High Court quashed the resolutions passed in special meetings that removed the petitioners and appointed new members in their place. However, it clarified that the Waqf Board is free to initiate appropriate proceedings for removal, provided it acts in accordance with the law. **— BMB**

2,185 unauthorised institutions identified in Bengaluru

The School Education Department has identified 2,185 unauthorised private and unaided schools across Bengaluru's southern zones alone, stepping up efforts to curb unregistered institutions operating without proper approval. Deputy Director Public Instruction (DDPI) and Block Education Officers (BEOs) have been tasked with identifying these schools and submitting detailed reports to the department. Notices have already been issued to several schools in violation of the Karnataka Education Act, 1983, which requires all educational institutions to obtain proper registration before starting operations. "The department's inspection process includes verifying classroom sizes, playgrounds, and other infrastructure based on online registration details. Schools that do not meet these statutory requirements are deemed unauthorised," added an official. **— BMB**

PTMs to be held every two months in govt schools

In a move aimed at improving learning outcomes and strengthening parent involvement, the Education Department has made parent teacher meetings mandatory once every two months in all government primary and high schools across the state. Till now, schools were holding such meetings three times a year, but the number will now increase to four or five annually, with meetings conducted simultaneously statewide on dates fixed by the department. The decision follows the positive response to the mega parent teacher meeting held at Vidhana Soudha on November 14 and is intended to help teachers and parents jointly identify students' learning levels, strengths, weaknesses and personal challenges, while also improving the overall learning environment and strengthening the bond between parents, schools and the community. **— BMB**

Medical boards to be set up for juvenile age assessment

The Health and Family Welfare Services Commissionerate has issued a circular mandating the constitution of district-level medical boards for age determination of juveniles in conflict with law, in compliance with a Karnataka High Court order. The directive follows the High Court's ruling in WP No 200464/2015, which made it mandatory for the State to constitute medical boards for juvenile age assessment. As per the circular dated December 29, 2025, each medical board must comprise a physiologist, dental expert, radiologist and forensic expert. Since physiologists are not part of district hospitals, a physiologist from the nearest government medical college will be co-opted for the concerned case. The district surgeon has been made responsible for coordinating medical board meetings, ensuring timely examinations, maintaining proper documentation and submitting reports to referring authorities. The circular also strictly prohibits individual doctors from conducting age-determination tests. **— BMB**

One dead, three injured in PG cylinder blast

A tragic gas cylinder explosion at Seven Hills Sri Sai PG claimed the life of 23-year-old Aravind and left three others injured on Monday evening. The incident occurred at around 6.15 pm in the kitchen of the PG, where a total of 52 residents were present at the time. According to reports, the explosion was caused by a gas leakage. Among the injured, Venkatesh is in critical condition, while Devi and Vishal sustained injuries and are undergoing treatment at a nearby hospital. Rescue teams and police and fire tenders rushed to the spot following the explosion, assisting residents in evacuating the building safely. The exact circumstances leading to the leakage are under investigation. Police officials have cordoned off the kitchen area and are inspecting the premises for safety violations. A case has been registered. **— BMB**

Counting down, one bite at a time

Advance planning, late-night orders and comfort food traditions define how the city celebrates December 31

As the year draws to a close, Bengaluru slips into celebration mode. While pubs, house parties and terrace get-togethers set the mood, food remains the centrepiece of New Year celebrations. From midnight biryanis to pizza boxes stacked high, Bengalureans plan their menus with the same enthusiasm as their countdowns.

Advance planning

For many residents, New Year food planning begins days in advance. Grocery apps see a surge in bulk orders, while neighbourhood stores stock up on party essentials. "We start planning by Christmas itself. The idea is to avoid last-minute stress and enjoy the night," said Nandana Gowda, an IT professional from Whitefield. Frozen snacks, dips, cheese blocks and soft drinks top shopping lists, especially for house parties. Families hosting small gatherings often strike a balance between traditional favourites and easy-to-serve options. Home cooks prepare gravies and marinades in advance, leaving only the final touches for December 31. "We pre-cook most items so that we are free to celebrate with our guests," said homemaker Savitha Prakash from Jayanagar.

Biryani demand

No Bengaluru celebration is complete without biryani, and New Year is no exception. Popular outlets across Shivajinagar, Frazer Town and Banashankari report advance bookings running into the hundreds. "New Year night is one of our busiest days. Orders start pouring in from the afternoon onwards," said a manager at a well-known biryani outlet in Frazer Town. Many revellers prefer ordering in rather than dining out to avoid traffic and crowds. Large family packs are common, with chicken and mutton biryani leading the list. Some even plan a late-night or early-morning biryani ritual. "We eat biryani after midnight. It has become a tradition in our group," said college student Imran Khan.

Pizza preference

Pizza has quietly become a New Year staple in the city, especially among young professionals and students. Its easy sharing format and wide range of flavours make it party-friendly. "Pizza works for everyone — veg, non-veg, thin crust or cheese-loaded. There is something for all tastes," said marketing executive Rohan Mehta from Indiranagar.

Major pizza chains and cloud kitchens brace for heavy demand, extending delivery slots and adding staff. Many customers pre-order to avoid delays. "On New Year's Eve, we see a spike in bulk orders, sometimes ten to fifteen pizzas at one address," said a delivery partner associated with a leading food app.

Home comforts

Despite the popularity of ordering in, a section of Bengalureans still prefers home-cooked comfort food. Traditional dishes such as lemon rice, chitranna, kosambari and sweets make an appearance, especially in family settings. "We like to start the New Year with familiar flavours. It feels grounding," said retired banker Srinivas Murthy. Desserts also receive special attention, with brownies, cakes and ice creams stocked in advance. Midnight cake-cutting has become common even in homes that do not host large parties.

Late-night orders

Food delivery apps record their highest traffic of the year on the night of December 31. From snacks at 8 pm to full meals past midnight, orders continue well into the early hours. "People want food on demand, whenever hunger strikes. New Year night is all about flexibility," said a senior executive from a leading delivery platform.

Changing tastes

The New Year table in Bengaluru reflects the city itself — diverse, adaptable and open to experimentation. From biryani and pizza to home-style meals, the choices underline one thing: for Bengalureans, welcoming the New Year is not just about fireworks or music. It is about sharing good food, in good company, and starting the year on a satisfying note.

Shoddy asphalting peels within days

Residents of Papanna Layout in Garvebhavipalya have raised serious concerns over poor-quality asphalting work, alleging the road was laid without removing parked vehicles. The newly surfaced stretch, executed at a cost of Rs 65 lakh under Bommanahalli Zone 2 of the Bengaluru South civic body, has begun peeling within just two days, with the tar layer reportedly coming off like a sheet. Instead of relaying the damaged portion, contractors allegedly spread M-sand over the road, worsening dust pollution and increasing skidding risks for motorists. Terming the work substandard and unsafe, residents have demanded strict action against the contractor responsible for the concerned. — BMB

Rs.7,000 crore plan to tackle flooding

Bengauru's civic agencies are planning a major overhaul of stormwater drains to tackle the city's recurring flooding crisis. Despite decades of heavy expenditure, the city has secured ₹7,000 crore in World Bank funding. Covering four valleys and 850 km of drains, the project will widen channels, strengthen retaining walls, improve flow in low-lying areas, restore natural drainage patterns, and ensure treated water reaches lakes without mixing with sewage. The GBA has divided the work into 16 packages, with 11 submitted for state approval. Once cleared, work orders will be issued with a 12–36 month timeline, prioritising highly encroached and narrow stretches to deliver safer neighbourhoods and smoother water flow. — BMB

Work on dead, dangerous trees removal gets head start

GBA plans citywide removal of dry and dangerous trees before monsoon to reduce accidents property damage and storm related emergencies

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Greater Bengaluru Authority GBA has decided to gear up early for the upcoming monsoon season and strengthen public safety measures across the city.

After completing a citywide survey of dry and dangerous trees GBA is preparing to begin a drive to remove all dead and hazardous trees across Bengaluru by April 2026. The drive is expected to start in Indiranagar and will be extended to other parts of the city in a phased manner.

"The survey of dry and dangerous trees across the city has been completed. We have details of the locations of these trees and plan to initiate the removal drive from the Indiranagar area. By April 2026 we aim to remove most of the dry and dangerous trees to ensure the safety of citizens during the monsoon," said Sudarshan GK Deputy Conservator of Forests DCF Greater Bengaluru Authority.

The assistant conservators of forests in each zone will be responsible for implementing the drive on the ground with support from deputy range forest officers ensuring coordination and timely execution as per the plan. More than a month ago GBA deployed a team of ten forestry students referred to as tree enumerators to identify avenue trees across the city that pose a risk of falling during storms and monsoon rains. The team has now identified dangerous and diseased trees that require immediate removal. The students were brought in from Sirsi and Ponampet to carry out the exercise.

"Bengaluru witnesses a large number of tree falling incidents during the monsoon which pose danger to citizens. Most of these incidents involve dead and dry trees. Through this exercise we want to minimise such cases and reduce losses to life and property," the DCF added.

Activists urge caution to ensure only truly dangerous trees felled

> **"By April 2026 we aim to remove most of the dry and dangerous trees to ensure the safety of citizens during the monsoon** — Sudarshan GK, Deputy Conservator of Forests, GBA

The number of cases involving fallen trees and branches has increased steadily in Bengaluru over recent years. According to data from GBA between April 2020 and March 2021 a total of 7472 incidents were recorded. This number rose to 12107 between April 2021 and March 2022 followed by 17948 cases between April 2023 and March 2024. Between April 2024 and May 2025 nearly 20000 instances of fallen trees and branches were registered across the city.

While residents have welcomed the initiative some have urged caution in its execution. "While this is a welcome step by GBA care should be taken to ensure that only dry and dangerous trees are felled. In several cases trees are deliberately damaged by shop owners by harming roots or pouring acid to clear space often to improve shop visibility. Authorities must remain vigilant while acting on such requests," said a tree activist and resident of Malleswaram.

BWSSB backs startup-led water innovation

Pilot project provides startups access to treated wastewater encouraging research, small-scale operations, and refinement of water recycling technologies under real-world conditions

In a move to boost innovation in water reuse, the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has opened its sewage treatment plants to startups, starting with the Kadubeesanahalli STP. Under the Brand Bengaluru vision, BWSSB has approved a proposal allowing a startup to install advanced water purification equipment at its own cost, while the Board will supply raw wastewater and support market linkages.

As part of the pilot, the startup will receive access to about 70,000 litres of high-grade treated water daily. This will enable real-time research, limited commercial operations, and hands-on understanding of challenges involved in scaling and commercialising recycled-water technologies.

> **"Opening up STPs as live laboratories will strengthen the city's recycled-water ecosystem while promoting long-term self-reliance** — Dr Ram Prasath Manohar, BWSSB chairman

BWSSB chairman Dr Ram Prasath Manohar said Bengaluru's water security depends on homegrown innovation and sustainable reuse solutions. He said opening up STPs as live laboratories will strengthen the city's recycled-water ecosystem while promoting long-term self-reliance. Since BWSSB is not investing capital, the initiative also serves as a low-risk learning platform that expands the market for quality reclaimed water.

The startup will receive access to about 70,000 litres of high-grade treated water daily

Manohar said a new scheme has been formulated to allow startups to test proof-of-concept technologies in wastewater management and water supply under real-world conditions. He added that Swiss universities and startups showing interest in collaborating reflects global confidence in Bengaluru's water innovation ecosystem. — BMB

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Pedestrian risk

Hebbal

A broken stone slab on the pedestrian footpath at Hebbal Kempapura Main Road has remained unattended for months, endangering students and commuters along this busy commercial and school corridor.

Garbage neglect

Bhuvaneshwari Nagar

A garbage-clogged culvert on Bannappa Main Road near a park at Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, adjacent to Hebbal, is causing waterlogging and remains uncleared despite repeated complaints and official inaction.

IMPACT: Light restored

Sahakar Nagar

BM reader's complaint prompts swift GBA action, leading to repair of a faulty streetlight at Sahakar Nagar.

20,000 police, tech surveillance to keep lid on celebrations

With watch towers, facial recognition, women help desks and transport coordination, police roll out their most extensive New Year safety plan yet

PICS: KAUSHIK JN

Brigade Road is all lit up for New Year eve celebrations, on Monday. (Inset) CCTV cameras and watch-towers form the backbone of police surveillance to monitor crowds & swiftly act against violations

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
@timesofindia.com

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As Bengaluru prepares to usher in 2026, the Bengaluru City Police have rolled out extensive safety and security measures to manage large crowds and ensure peaceful celebrations across the city. Nearly 20,000 personnel, including civil and traffic police, will be deployed, with planning based on lessons from previous years and a special focus on women and young adults' safety.

Police have erected 78 watch towers and activated continuous CCTV surveillance with facial recognition to track anti-social elements. A "magic box" system will document violations for swift action. Hotels and lodges will undergo intensified inspections, while specialised forces such as Quick Response Teams, Hoysala, Cobra patrols and C-SWAT units will be stationed at sensitive and high-footfall locations. Ambulances and fire tenders will remain on standby to respond to emergencies swiftly. As many as 164 women help desks, supported by female personnel, will operate at major hubs, alongside clearly marked safe zones, exit routes and rapid response teams.

To prevent overcrowding, strict capacity limits will be enforced at pubs, clubs and public spaces, while vehicular movement will be restricted in select areas, including Brigade Road. Drunken driving, wheeling and nuisance behaviour will invite strict action, including suspension of pub operations if required.

MG Road Metro station will close after 10 pm, with services halting at Trinity and Cubbon Park instead. Metro, BMTC buses, tempo travellers and app-based cabs, including women drivers, will help disperse crowds safely after midnight, with police urging citizens to cooperate, follow advisories and report suspicious activity promptly.

District hospitals on high alert

The Karnataka government has directed all district hospitals to remain fully prepared for New Year 2026 celebrations from December 31, 2025, to January 1, 2026, to avert health emergencies. Hospitals must arrange separate rooms for men and women, deploy female staff for women patients, and ensure ambulances, medicines, and emergency services are readily available statewide coverage. –BMB

Keep this in mind when you hit the road

Police have issued detailed traffic advisories, warning motorists and pedestrians of major restrictions across key areas on New Year's Eve. With large crowds expected on MG Road, Brigade Road, Residency Road, St. Marks Road, Church Street, and other popular spots, police officials have prepared to ensure smooth traffic flow and public safety.

The Commissioner of Police, Bengaluru City, Seemanth Kumar Singh, said traffic restrictions have been imposed on several routes, with alternative routes notified for the convenience of commuters.

Designated parking facilities have also been arranged; 166 points have been identified for special drunk-and-drive checks, while 92 locations are under close surveillance to curb wheeling, stunt riding and rash driving; 50 flyovers will remain closed during night hours to prevent speeding. To ensure safety and order, the police have deployed 10 drones, 249 Cobra vehicles and 400 traffic wardens across the city.

Traffic restrictions

- All vehicles except police and emergency service vehicles on duty have been restricted from 8 pm on December 31 to 2 am on January 1, on roads including MG Road (Anil Kumble Circle to Residency Road), Brigade Road (Cauvery Emporium to Opera Junction), Church Street (Brigade Road to Museum Road), Residency Road (Ashirvadam to Mayo Hall), Museum Road (MG Road to SBI Circle), Rest House Road (Museum Road to Brigade Road), and Residency Cross Road (Shankar Nag Theatre to Residency Road). Parking is also banned on these roads from 4 pm on December 31 to 3 am on January 1.
- Restrictions will be enforced on YD Math Road, Koramangala, up to Microland Junction at Sukh Sagar Junction, including adjoining roads such as JNC Road, 4th B Cross, Tonic Back Road and 17th H Main Road. Vehicles from Adugodi and Madiwala heading towards NGV or Sony World Junctions will be diverted via Madiwala Checkpost, Water Tank Junction, Ayyappa Junction and other designated routes, avoiding UCO Bank Junction. Parking will be prohibited on select stretches, with designated parking at nearby BBMP grounds. Cab, auto, BMTC and Tempo Traveller pick-up, drop-off and operating routes have been specified.
- Traffic and parking restrictions will be enforced at major venues including Mall of Asia, Phoenix Mall, Orion Mall and Indiranagar. Parking will be prohibited on key stretches such as Byatarayanapura Service Road, Dr. Rajkumar Road and West of Chord Road near malls. Designated cab and auto pick-up and drop-off points have been earmarked near mall entry and exit gates. BMTC buses and Tempo Travellers will operate from Mall of Asia and Phoenix Mall on notified routes across the city. In Indiranagar, parking will be restricted on 100 Feet Road, 12th Main, ITPL Road and surrounding stretches, with BMTC and TT operations from 17th Main Road and BM Shree Junction.

Diversions

On December 31, from 8 pm, vehicles from Queen's Circle towards Halasuru must divert via Anil Kumble Circle, BRV Junction and Cubbon Road. Traffic from Halasuru can use Trinity Circle routes. Parking is permitted on Kamaraj Road and at Shivajinagar BMTC Complex. Pedestrian movement is restricted to Brigade Road, while vehicles must vacate major roads by 4 pm to avoid penalties.

Parking/ cab & auto points

Parking at Shivajinagar BMTC, UB City, Garuda Mall; cabs, autos, BMTC shuttles at key junctions.

Note: Police have given a QR code that contains complete information on emergency services and traffic restrictions

New Year exodus traps Bengalureans in holiday traffic, full destinations

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

As thousands of Bengalureans poured out of the city to usher in the New Year, highways leading to popular holiday destinations witnessed massive traffic snarls, turning what was meant to be a relaxing getaway into a test of patience.

From the early hours of the weekend, long queues of vehicles were reported on routes towards Gokarna, Udupi, Ooty and Munnar, with commuters stuck for hours at entry points and toll plazas. Social media platforms were flooded with images of bumper-to-bumper traffic as families, groups of friends and solo travellers attempted to beat the year-end rush, only to find themselves caught in it.

The Bengaluru–Mangaluru highway bore the brunt of the exodus, with toll booths struggling to manage the sudden surge in traffic. Many motorists reported spending hours crawling through congested stretches. "We started from Bengaluru at 5 am thinking the roads would be clear, but it took us nearly nine hours to reach Gokarna," said Prashanth S, an IT professional. Similar scenes played out on routes to hill stations, where narrow roads and heavy inflow led to frequent bottlenecks. Entry roads to Ooty and Munnar saw traffic moving at walking speed, leaving travellers exhausted even before reaching their destinations.

Traffic crawls for hours on key highways as toll plazas struggle with heavy year-end inflow, testing the patience of holiday-bound travellers

For several holidaymakers, the bigger shock awaited them on arrival. Hotels, resorts and homestays across coastal and hill regions were already fully booked, leaving last-minute travellers scrambling for accommodation. "We planned a spontaneous trip to Udupi, but every hotel we checked said bookings had closed days ago," said Anusha R, who eventually had to cut short her trip due to the lack of available rooms. Travel operators said most year-end bookings were locked in weeks in advance, particularly in destinations such as Gokarna, Karwar and Murudeshwar.

Tourist hubs across Karnataka are now witnessing a sharp spike in footfall. Heritage and pilgrimage centres such as Belur, Halebid and Shravanabelagola have been crowded throughout the day, with school vacations and a string of holidays adding to the rush. Officials also pointed to an increase in group travel, including pilgrim tours and school outings, which has further contributed to crowd density. Free bus travel schemes have encouraged more families to explore nearby destinations during the festive period.

The coastal belt has emerged as the most popular choice for New Year celebrations, with beaches in Gokarna, Murudeshwar, Karwar and Honnavar drawing visitors from Bengaluru, north Karnataka and neighbouring states.

SENSODYNE PRONAMEL

Court orders ignored as elephants continue to die of electrocution

Illegal power tapping and sagging lines remain unchecked statewide, even after High Court intervention and forest department surveys

Garima Prasher
garima.prasher
@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Forest department surveys reveal hundreds of sagging power lines in elephant habitats, highlighting unresolved risks despite court orders and official mapping

Yet another year has passed without improvement in elephant mortality due to electrocution in Karnataka. In 2025, nine elephants in the state were electrocuted due to illegal power tapping or sagging power lines, continuing a grim trend that wildlife conservationists say has gone largely unaddressed for years. The most recent incidents were reported on November 2 in Belagavi district, where two elephants died after coming into contact with illegally laid electric wires allegedly installed by a farmer. Earlier, on September 10, an elephant was electrocuted in Mangala village inside the Bandipur Tiger Reserve after touching a live wire drawn to fence agricultural land.

Official records show that such deaths are neither isolated nor new. In 2024, at least 13 elephants died due to electrocution, following 14 deaths in 2023, nine in 2022 and 10 in 2021. Conservationists argue that the recurring fatalities point to systemic failures in monitoring power infrastructure in elephant habitats and conflict-prone landscapes.

Calling the issue a statewide crisis, wildlife researcher Ramesh Belagere of the Foundation of Ecology and Education Development said repeated efforts by the forest department alone have failed to curb electrocution deaths. He stressed the need for a dedicated special task force to address the problem. According to him, the forest department is well aware of elephant movement corridors and conflict-prone areas, and a task force supported by electricity supply companies could regularly patrol these regions, identify illegal power tapping, and replace or repair ageing power lines.

The urgency of the issue has also been recognised by the judiciary. On May 6 this year, the Karnataka High Court directed the State Government and the forest department to form area-wise investigating committees to map sagging power lines and illegal electrical fences that could potentially lead to elephant deaths. The direction came while disposing of a suo-motu petition initiated in June 2024, based on a Bangalore Mirror report highlighting the rising number of electrocution-related elephant deaths.

Nine elephant electrocution deaths in 2025 expose persistent gaps between identification and action, as conservationists demand a dedicated task force and power utilities face mounting responsibility

Following the court's order, the forest department conducted an extensive on-ground survey between June and September, in association with the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited. The findings were stark. Within Bannerghatta National Park alone, which spans 260.51 square kilometres, officials identified 231 locations with sagging power lines. This effectively means there is at least one sagging power line for every 1.1 square kilometres of forest area.

Belagere noted that while the forest department has mapped hazardous locations, fixing the problem lies beyond its mandate. He said resolving issues related to sagging lines and illegal power connections ultimately depends on action by electricity supply companies, warning that unless corrective steps are taken swiftly, preventable elephant deaths will continue to haunt the state's conservation record.

Gruha Lakshmi payment issues? Call 181

Women beneficiaries of the Gruha Lakshmi scheme can now seek clarity on delayed or missing payments through the 181 helpline, without the need to visit government offices. The Women and Child Development Department has brought the scheme under the helpline to help women report non-credit of the monthly Rs.2,000 assistance given to BPL families under the state's guarantee programmes. Beneficiaries facing delays due to technical glitches, pending e-KYC, or other discrepancies can call 181 to register a complaint. Helpline operators will document the issue and forward it to the concerned taluk-level officials for resolution. Officials said the helpline operates round the clock and continues to handle complaints related to domestic violence and other women-related concerns. — BMB

Tenancy claims can't stall will probate

The The Karnataka High Court has ruled that a tenant claiming occupancy rights cannot obstruct or delay probate of a will, as tenancy and inheritance operate in distinct legal spheres. The court clarified that probate proceedings are confined to examining the genuineness of a will and identifying the lawful successor to the deceased's estate.

The case involved agricultural land bequeathed by a woman to her daughter-in-law through a will. After her death, a tenant cultivating the land sought to intervene in the probate, citing a pending occupancy claim under land reform laws. Rejecting this plea, the court held that only persons with a direct succession interest can contest probate. Tenancy claims, it said, must be resolved separately and cannot stall execution of a valid will. Setting aside the trial court's order, the High Court warned that allowing such interventions would unnecessarily prolong probate cases and undermine certainty in succession, while clarifying that tenants may pursue remedies independently against the estate. — BMB

BM Trippin' Tales

Bengaluru's Banashankari stands alone as coastal temples dominate Karnataka revenue

City's sole A-Grade temple posts ₹11.38 crore as Kukke, Kollur and others surge on holiday tourism across coastal pilgrimage circuits

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @sridharvMirror

Bengaluru's Banashankari temple is the city's only representative among Karnataka's top-earning A-Grade temples, recording a revenue of ₹11.38 crore in 2024-25, slightly down from ₹11.95 crore the previous year. While coastal shrines dominate the top charts, Banashankari remains the lone Bengaluru temple to feature, highlighting the city's limited share in the state's temple tourism revenue despite heavy urban footfall.

In contrast, Dakshina Kannada's Kukke Subrahmanya topped the list with ₹155.95 crore in 2024-25, marking a nine per cent rise over the previous year. Kollur Mookambika followed with ₹71.93 crore, while Nanjanagud Srikanteshwara Swamy temple reported ₹36.12 crore. Other temples such as Mandarathi Durga Parameshwari, Ghati Subrahmanya and Huligemma recorded steady growth.

Officials attributed the surge to year-end holidays, the Christmas break and the Shakti Guarantee Scheme, which boosted pilgrim movement. Coastal towns reported 10 to 15 per cent higher footfall, with hotels and lodges running full, forcing visitors to seek accommodation in nearby areas. Meanwhile, inland shrines including Chamundi Hill's Chamundeshwari and Yediyur Siddalingeshwara saw revenue declines, underlining regional disparities in pilgrimage-driven economies during major festival and tourism-driven periods statewide. Officials say focused tourism circuits and improved connectivity continue to shape temple earnings, influencing pilgrim choices and seasonal travel patterns.

Coastal pilgrimage centres witnessed sharp revenue growth this festive season, driven by holiday travel, welfare-linked tourism and packed temple towns

Bengaluru sees a slight dip in temple income as coastal and inland shrines benefit from festive crowds, welfare-linked travel and strong tourism-driven religious economies

K-RERA raps builder, orders refund with interest

Double sale nightmare ends as K-RERA directs builder to refund amount with interest after prolonged delay

IN FOCUS
Home-buyers' rights

Judgment reinforces accountability amid persistent double sale disputes

Bengaluru homebuyer secured relief from K-RERA after builders failed to deliver possession even after executing two agreements, prompting the Authority to order refund with interest and permit recovery action

Despite the efforts of law enforcement authorities and the Karnataka Real Estate Regulatory Authority (K-RERA), the menace of double sale continues to haunt gullible and hapless homebuyers. Many affected buyers have been running from pillar to post seeking justice. Some of them have pinned their hopes on K-RERA, which has begun delivering judgments providing much-needed relief to complainants facing prolonged delays.

After hearing a complaint from Sudhir, a victim, the K-RERA, in a judgment dated December 22, 2025, directed the respondents — Sri Vanishelters, LS Srinidhi, B Kenchappa Gowda, and G Vidyavathi — to pay Rs 32,94,816 towards refund with interest. The interest is calculated at the rate of SBI's marginal cost of funds based lending rate (MCLR) plus two percent from February 14, 2020 to June 12, 2025, and must be paid within 60 days.

"Further, the interest due from June 13, 2025 up to the date of realization will be calculated likewise and paid to the complainant. The Authority noted that despite several opportunities, the respondents failed to file their memo of calculation. "A thorough verification of documentary evidence submitted by the complainant reveals that the claim is genuine. Having regard to all aspects, this Authority concludes that the complainant is entitled to refund with interest," the judgment stated.

K-RERA observed that from the averments of the complaint and agreements between the parties, it was evident the complainant had paid a substantial portion of the sale consideration. "Having accepted the amount and failed to keep the promise to hand over possession, the complainant is entitled to refund along with interest," the order said.

The Authority further held that despite executing an agreement to deliver possession by February 19, 2023, including the grace period, and receiving a substantial amount, the respondents failed to fulfil their obligations and did not hand over possession till date.

He paid an advance of Rs 5,50,000 and availed a housing loan of Rs 28,00,000 from LIC Housing Finance, agreeing to pay the balance during registration.

Subsequently, the respondent offered an alternative 3BHK flat bearing No. A-301 for Rs 48,00,000, assuring the complainant that all formalities, including loan transfer, would be taken care of. Relying on this assurance, the complainant executed a cancellation deed for Flat No. B-306. The respondent then executed a fresh agreement of sale dated August 20, 2022 for Flat No. A-301.

As per the agreement, the respondent undertook to complete construction and hand over possession within six months. However, the respondent failed to complete the project, hand over possession, or execute the registered sale deed within the agreed timeline.

"Upon registration of the complaint, notices were issued to the respondents calling upon them to appear. Despite service of notice, the respondents failed to appear before this Authority," the judgment copy stated.

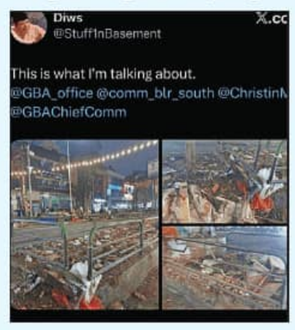
SOCIALTATTLE

WHAT'S TWEETING

DCP EAST @DcpEastBcp · 1h
In view of the New Year celebrations, securi
inspections were carried out at major hotels
and restaurants within the limits of the Jeev
Bheema Nagar Police Station to ensure pub
safety.
@BlrCityPolice @CPBlr @AddlCPEast
@Jbnagarps
#NewYear2026 #CelebrateResponsibly

Ahead of New Year celebrations, police conducted security inspections at major hotels and restaurants under the Jeevan Bheema Nagar Police Station limits. The checks aimed to ensure public safety, crowd management and compliance with norms, as the city gears up for festive gatherings.

A citizen flags rampant garbage dumping opposite Sarakki Market junction, especially around metro pillars 50 to 55. The area has become an informal dumping spot for vendors, raising hygiene concerns. Citizens urge authorities to clean the stretch and prevent repeated misuse.



i Change Indiranagar @icindngr · 1d
Sir @CPBlr why is La Gioia allowed to run
karaoke without a valid music licence?
Residents were assured that noise pollution
laws would be strictly followed. The hoysala
#30 assigned was looking at reducing volum
and not shutting it. Please initiate action as
promised.
0:09

Indiranagar residents question why karaoke is being allowed without a valid music licence despite complaints of noise pollution. Though authorities assured strict enforcement, Hoysala vehicle #30 was seen only reducing volume instead of shutting it down. Residents demand action as promised.

CRIME FILES

Drugs worth Rs 2.5 cr seized, 2 arrested

Ahead of New Year celebrations, Bengaluru's Central Crime Branch (CCB) Narcotics Control Wing carried out two significant operations, arresting two drug peddlers, including a foreign national, and seizing contraband worth 2.50 crore.

The arrested accused are identified as Okoke Christopher Okedil from Nigeria and Naveen Raj from Tamil Nadu. In the first operation, within Soladevanahalli Police Station limits, the CCB team led by ACP HK Mahanand and PI Lakshminarayan K acted on credible intelligence to apprehend the foreign national. Police seized 1.07 kg of MDMA crystal, 60 ecstasy pills, 2 lakh cash, two mobile phones, and a laptop, collectively valued at 2.25 crore.

Investigations revealed Okedil arrived in India last year on a business visa, procured MDMA at low prices from contacts in Delhi and Mumbai, and planned distribution during New Year festivities. He had a prior NDPS case and resumed illegal activities after release.

In a second operation under Bandepalya police station, the team arrested an interstate peddler, seizing 100 LSD strips, 5 grams of cocaine, and a mobile phone, valued at 25 lakh. Cases under the NDPS Act have been registered, and further investigation is underway. –BMB

Senior manager booked in gold loan scam

A senior manager of Canara Bank has been booked for allegedly sanctioning fictitious gold loans worth over 3.11 crore without receiving any gold ornaments, causing substantial financial loss to the public sector bank.

Based on a complaint filed on December 12 by the Assistant General Manager (AGM) of Canara Bank's Bengaluru West Regional Office, police registered a case against N Raghu (Employee No 893467), Senior Manager of the bank's 15th Cross Branch in Malleswaram, which falls under the complainant's regional office.

The irregularities came to light during a quarterly revaluation and audit of gold loans conducted as per bank guidelines. Audit officers found 41 gold loan accounts were fictitious, and corresponding gold jewellery packets were missing from the branch vault. The total sanctioned amount under these loans was estimated at 3,11,54,000.

Further scrutiny of loan accounts in the Core Banking Solution (CBS) system, compared with physically available applications, revealed Raghu had allegedly sanctioned loans between October 4 and December 9, 2025, without receiving any gold from borrowers.

When questioned on December 10 regarding the discrepancies, Raghu reportedly admitted the irregularities. He subsequently failed to report for duty without prior notice. The AGM then lodged a formal complaint with police, accusing him of criminal breach of trust, cheating, misappropriation of public funds, and defrauding the bank. The accused remains absconding, and further investigation is ongoing. –BMB

Woman ends life at PG due to career struggles

Police suspect suicide after a woman was found dead at a paying guest accommodation in Mailasandra. The police said the incident occurred during the night between Sunday and Monday. The 26-year-old, CM Nandini, who completed her PUC studies in Ballari in 2018, had enrolled for BE studies but later switched to acting training in Rajarajeshwari Nagar.

She had been living in various PG accommodations in Bengaluru since 2019 and moved to the PG where she was found dead in August 2025. Her mother, GR Basavarajeshwari, 53, a teacher from Kottur Taluk, said Nandini was determined to pursue acting instead of a government job offered under compassionate grounds. On the night of the incident, after visiting a friend, she locked herself in her room. When she did not respond to calls, PG authorities entered and found her dead. Police confirmed Nandini died on the spot. Her diary revealed frustration over lack of support for her career. No foul play is suspected. –BMB

Nasty proposal: Woman set ablaze

Bengaluru police have arrested a man from Tamil Nadu for allegedly attempting to murder a woman by setting her on fire after she refused to allow him to marry her daughter.

The accused, identified as Muthu Abhimanyu, allegedly poured petrol on Geetha at her Saneguruvanahalli home under Basaveshwara Nagar police limits around 1 am last Tuesday. The attack left her with severe burn injuries covering nearly 50 percent of her body, and she is undergoing treatment at a hospital where her condition remains critical. Geetha ran a small provision store and lived with her 19-year-old daughter. Muthu, who ran a tea shop, had stayed with the family for four years earlier.

After the incident, Muthu fled Bengaluru. Police tracked him using technical evidence and arrested him in Tamil Nadu on December 29. A case of attempted murder has been registered, and the investigation is ongoing. –BMB

Drug bust: 3 police inspectors suspended

Three police inspectors were suspended on Monday after drug manufacturing and storage units were uncovered in their jurisdictions. The Maharashtra Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF), working jointly with Bengaluru City Police, carried out the operation, highlighting lapses in local law enforcement oversight.

City Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh confirmed that the officers were suspended for failing to collect intelligence and implement the zero-tolerance drug policy in their jurisdictions. The suspended officers have been identified as Chethan Kumar of Kothanur Police Station, Ramakrishna Reddy of Avalahalli Police Station, and Srinivas of Bagaluru Police Station. Disciplinary proceedings have been initiated against them for their inaction.

The City Police Commissionerate has also temporarily placed several Police Inspectors in charge of different stations on special duty. R Venkatesh has been assigned to Bagalur Police Station from the Women's Police Station, North East Division; B Ramamurthy of KR Puram Police Station will oversee Avalahalli Police Station; M Chandrashekhar from Sampigehalli Police Station will manage Kothanur Police Station. **BMB**

Swift action by police, citizens contains fire

A fire broke out over nearly 10 acres of land near Vittasandra Main Road, Vidyaranyapura, within the limits of the Electronic City Police Station on Sunday, prompting a swift emergency response. According to the police, an alert was received from the public through the "Namma 112" emergency helpline at around 2.59 pm, reporting the blaze spreading rapidly across the open area through which police officials reached in 16 minutes

The Namma 112 staff immediately registered the incident and relayed the information to the Hoysala patrol unit attached to the Electronic City Police Station. Acting without delay, Hoysala patrol vehicle No. 214, led by Assistant Sub-Inspector N Srinivas along with Armed Police Constable Manjunath, rushed to the spot and reached within 16 minutes of receiving the call.

On arrival, the officers found the fire burning intensely. They initiated preliminary fire-control measures with the assistance of local residents, helping contain the flames until additional support arrived. Fire and Emergency Services personnel were called to the location and brought the fire under complete control. **BMB**

Board games make a comeback

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

event planned on New Year's Eve that is high-energy and socially dense. The response has been consistently strong. Most of our events fill up through word-of-mouth alone, which tells us people don't just attend, they remember the experience. This event is no exception."

According to Sam, HSR meetups started around four years ago with a simple idea to create a space where strangers can connect without awkwardness, alcohol dependency, or forced small talk.

Previous studies have shown that playing board games can improve memory, attention, problem-solving, and strategic thinking, benefiting both children and adults.

Omar Ali Khan, a lifelong gamer, and co-founder of Playparty.in, launched the platform in 2023 to build a community around his passion. "Board game clubs seem to be gaining popularity, with many new communities forming across the city. People are craving real, offline connections again. With screen fatigue, remote work, and social media overload, board games offer a refreshing alternative with face-to-face interaction, laughter, competition, and collaboration in the same space. Games today are far more accessible and diverse than before. Many are easy to learn, quick to play, and designed to bring people together. That mix of nostalgia, social bonding, and mindful fun is what is really driving the resurgence."

The idea for Playparty.in came organically. "Growing up, games were always my happy place. Playgrounds, video games, and board games late into the night. As my collection grew to over 200 board games, I realized the real challenge was not buying games, but finding people to play them with. Those who already loved games and those who were curious to try them," he adds. The response so far has been encouraging, with regular meets, growing attendance, and even tournaments.

Sessions are held around Cooke Town in cafés, community

spaces, and venues that support long, relaxed game sessions. Omar explains that crowd favourites vary. " A few of them are Catan, Exploding Kittens, Project L, Ticket To Ride, Azul, Flip 7 and Splendor. Social deduction and party games are always a hit with newcomers because they help break the ice quickly. Strategy games attract those who enjoy depth and competition, while lighter gateway games help first-timers ease in. What is great is seeing people come for one type of game and slowly explore entirely new genres over time."

The impact goes beyond fun. "Many players tell us that game sessions feel like a mental reset. A few hours where phones are forgotten and stress takes a back seat. Board games demand presence, focus, and interaction, which naturally pulls people away from screens. Feedback highlights improved social confidence, new friendships, and a sense of connection, with many discovering a hobby they did not know they were missing," added Omar.

Saisha started Card n Dice club two-and-a-half years ago for residents of Neeladri Road, Phase 1. "I am a passionate board gamer myself and I wanted to find people of the same interest. Fortunately, I found many of them. There are 500 members on our WhatsApp community. Every Sunday from 2 to 7 pm, we play a collection of 200 board games, 70–80% imported from the US and Europe." Saisha's club hosts games of all moods from fun party games like Secret Hitler, Trophy, to strategic games like Everdell, Azul, Splendor, and Ticket to Ride.

"The whole reason people fell in love with board games is meeting new people and playing together. Many say they even forget to use their phones. They stay away from screen time for 5–6 hours, which is a huge change in today's world. When playing strategy games, one completely forgets about their issues and focuses entirely on the game," she explains.

Sam says board gaming isn't a fad anymore. "What's changed is who is showing up. In cities like Bengaluru, people are actively seeking offline spaces that feel intelligent, social, and worth their time.

The shift is driven by screen fatigue, shallow socialising, and a growing appetite for experiences that signal taste, presence, and real human connection rather than passive consumption," he says.

Recovery rate remains low at 17%

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

technology, while 30,420 mobiles were seized and 29,821 returned to rightful owners. Additional devices seized directly from accused persons push the total higher, but the overall recovery rate remains at a worrying 17%, indicating that the majority of stolen phones are still untraced and circulating in black markets.

How stolen phones move across cities

According to police, mobile thieves constantly shift locations and sell devices in multiple cities, making follow-up investigations more complex. Many buyers unknowingly purchase stolen phones and only realise the fraud when police trace the IMEI number and seize the device. Authorities warn citizens against buying second-hand mobiles without proper documentation, emphasising that such purchases can lead to financial loss and potential legal trouble.

Police stress the importance of prompt complaints. Victims must upload the IMEI number and the FIR or e-Lost acknowledgement to the CEIR portal immediately after losing the phone.

Once filed, CEIR blocks the phone within 24 hours, preventing misuse. If a new SIM is inserted into the stolen phone, police receive an alert that enables focused investigation. The system also allows IMEI-based tracking and the option to deactivate the device, ensuring that it cannot be used by anyone else.

Low participation

A senior police official said, "Despite the effectiveness of CEIR in tracing thousands of stolen devices, many victims simply do not file complaints, leaving thieves unchecked and making recovery harder. The public must make use of the CEIR portal, which has significantly strengthened the city's efforts to curb mobile theft and disrupt illegal resale networks."

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I Mahalakshmi shivanna R/o #16 1st F Main 40Ft Rd suvarna nagar Doddabidarekallu Blore-73 Have changed my name to Mahalakshmi Javagal Puttaswamyshetty

I, Vivek Prabhu S R/o 265, CQAL Layout, Sahakar Nagar, Bangalore-560092 have changed my minor daughter's name from Prathiksha. V to Prathiksha Prabhu. V for all purposes.

I Mittal Mahesh Joshi R/o Epitome Elan Apartment C-1011, 10 Floor, C Wing, 80ft Rd, Kothanur, Jp Nagar 8th Phase, Bengaluru 560076 Have Changed My Name to Mittal Joshi I Shall Be Called by This Name for All Purpose.

I, Madhusudhana R/o No.39, Brundavana Lyt, S.Bingipur, Jigani Hobali, Anekal tq, Bengaluru 560105 have changed my name to Madhu Sudhan Rajappa (Madhu Sudhan R). I shall be called by this name for all purposes

I, OM PAL F/o NO. 16023163H, Hav AMARJEET SINGH Resident of Vill- Ghanghauli, Post-Jaidpura,Teh-Khair, Dist-Aligarh, State-Uttar Pradesh,Pin-202165 have changed my name from OM PAL to OMPAL SINGH vide affidavit dated 22 DEC 2025 sworn before notary Shivakumar M.N., Bengaluru.

I, Nirmal Kumar Jain S/o Late Parasmal R/o 764/44,2nd Floor,4th Main Road,4th Block,Rajajinagar B'luru-560010 have changed my name to Nirmal Jain for all purposes.

I, Sunitha/Sunitha S W/o Nirmal Jain R/o 764/44,2nd Floor,4th Main Road,4th Block,Rajajinagar B'luru-560010 have changed my name to Sunitha for all purposes.

I, Riya D/o Sunitha alias Sunitha Jain R/o 764/44,2nd Floor,4th Main Road,4th Block,Rajajinagar B'luru-560010 have changed my name to Riya Jain for all purposes.

I Rushita Rakesh Jaiswal R/o Epitome Elan Appointment, C-1011, 10 Floor, C Wing, 80ft Rd, Kothanur, JP Nagar, 8th Phase Bengaluru 560076 Have Changed My Name to Rushita Mittal Joshi L Shall Be Called by This Name for All Purpose.

I Lokesh A S/o Shivaramaiah, R/o. #104/3, NR Layout, Virat Nagar, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru-560068, have changed my name to LOKESH SHIVARAMAIAH vide affidavit Dt: 29/11/25 before Notary M. Rajendra, Blr. for all purposes.

I Mayyas Osamah Abdul Alim Bastawi S/O Osamah Abdul Alim Bastawi R/O of #12 4th Cross, 8th B Main, Nihmans HBCS Layout, BTM 1st Stage, Bengaluru-29 shall henceforth be known as Mayyas Bastawi to align it as per all my official documents and for my new passport

GENERAL

SINDOOR CONVENTION CENTRE JP Nagar, Bangalore is Available For Rent on 4th & 5th February 2026 details call: 7619449893

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Karnataka men dominated 2025 across cricket, hockey, swimming, badminton, tennis, and shooting, collecting medals nationally and internationally, while rising stars and juniors showcased talent, promise, and potential for an even stronger 2026

CHAMPION CREW

SS Shreekumar
mybangaloremirror
@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Karnataka men performed admirably in the past year, bringing home team titles in a number of disciplines—badminton, cricket, hockey, and swimming.

At the 38th National Games in Uttarakhand, Karnataka finished fifth in the overall medal tally, securing 34 gold, 18 silver, and 28 bronze medals, for a total of 80.

In the Khelo India Youth Games in Bihar in May 2025, Karnataka placed fourth with a total of 58 medals, comprising 17 gold, 26 silver, and 15 bronze.

There were also many noteworthy individual medal-winning performances, with a couple of athletes going on to represent the country at international meets.

AQUATICS

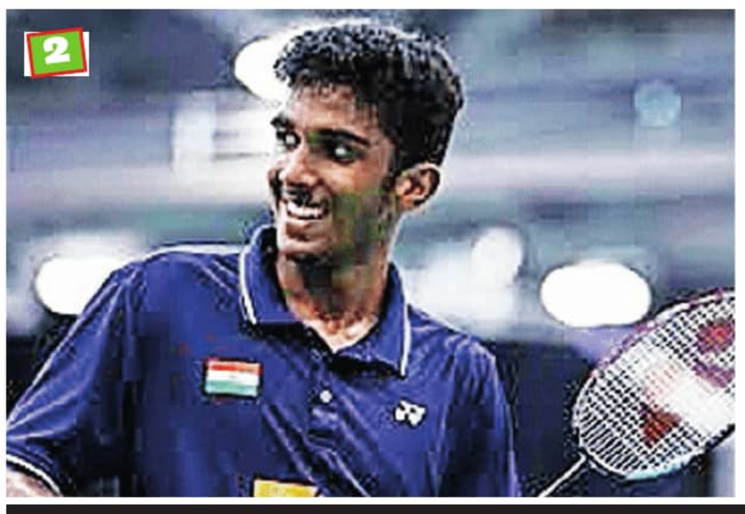
The 11th Asian Aquatics Championships were held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, in September/October 2025. India finished 11th with a total of 13 medals, comprising four silver and nine bronze.

Srihari Natraj won three silver and four bronze medals, contributing seven of the 13 medals for India. His silver medals came in the 4x200m freestyle relay, 50m backstroke, and 200m freestyle, while he claimed bronze in the 4x100m freestyle relay, 100m backstroke, 100m freestyle, and 4x100m medley relay.

Srihari Natraj also won gold in the 200m freestyle at the 38th National Games. Dhinidhi Desinghu set new national records in the 200m freestyle at the Senior Nationals and bagged multiple gold medals in the National Games.

At the 38th National Games, 2025, Karnataka's swimmers won numerous medals, while at the 51st Junior National Swimming Championship, Karnataka emerged as overall champions.

Dhrupad Ramakrishna won gold at the Khelo India Beach Games and represented India at the World Aquatics Championships in the 5-km open water event.



1. Karnataka team won the Vijay Hazare Trophy 2024–25
2. Ayush Shetty, badminton champ
3. Swimming sensation Srihari Natraj
4. Prasidh Krishna, the Karnataka bowler who plays for Gujarat Titans in the IPL, became the first Karnataka bowler to win the Purple Cap in IPL history, taking 25 wickets

BADMINTON

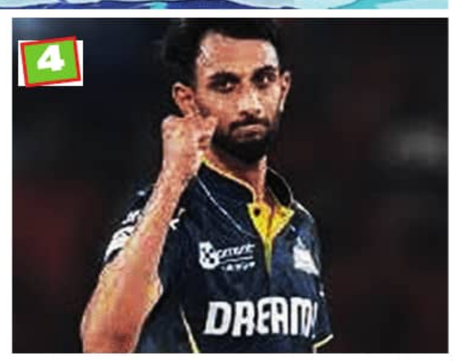
In badminton, Karnataka has a strong crop of rising youngsters. Lakshya Rajesh and Shaina Manimuthu won medals at the Asian Championships. Several other names also emerged during State Championships and other state-level tournaments. A notable example was Pruthvi K Roy, who made waves in men's doubles and also represented India internationally.

Nithin HV and Prakash Raj S won men's doubles gold at the 38th National Games badminton event, while the men's badminton team also won gold in the team event, with Tushar Suveer, Nithin HV, and Prakash Raj S comprising the winning combination.

Ayush Shetty, who won the US Open Super 300 title in 2025, defeated Brian Young of Canada 21–18, 21–13 in the final.

CRICKET

In cricket, Karnataka regained the Vijay Hazare Trophy (50-over format) 2024–25 in January 2025, defeating Vidarbha by 36 runs in the final, marking their fifth title in the event. Smaran won the Man of the Match award for his 101-run knock, while Prasidh Krishna, V Koushik, and Abhilash Shetty claimed three wickets each. Karnataka had previously won the Vijay Hazare Trophy in 2013–14, 2014–15, 2017–18, and 2019–20.



IPL

Royal Challengers Bangalore won the Indian Premier League T20 cricket for the first time ever in June 2025, defeating Punjab Kings by six runs in the final in Mohali. However, their maiden victory was overshadowed by a stampede, which claimed 11 lives and injured many others during the celebrations after their return home. This led the State government to ban the Chinnaswamy Stadium from hosting major cricketing events until safety conditions, set by an appointed commission, were met.

BOWLING

Consequently, a historic achievement went largely unnoticed. Karnataka's Prasidh Krishna, playing for Gujarat Titans in IPL 2025, became the first bowler from Karnataka to emerge as the leading wicket-taker and wear the Purple Cap, claiming 25 wickets in 15 matches.

HOCKEY

In the 38th National Games (2025) hockey final, Karnataka defeated Uttar Pradesh 3–2 to claim gold. Uttar Pradesh took an early lead as Faraz Khan converted a penalty corner in the first minute. Karnataka's Shamanth CS equalised in the eighth minute, followed by goals from Bharat Mahalingappa Kurtakoti (18th minute) and Abharan Sudev B (39th minute), both from penalty corners. Shardanand Tiwari pulled one back for Uttar Pradesh in the 45th minute.

TENNIS

S.D. Prajwal Dev had a remarkable year, winning the M15 Bhubaneswar ($15,000) tennis singles and doubles titles in November for his maiden professional triumphs. In the singles final, he defeated Digvijay Pratap Singh (7–6(4), 7–6(1)) and partnered with Siddhant Banthia in doubles, defeating Madhwin Kamath and Rohan Mehra (7–6(5), 6–2). Prajwal Dev also reached the semi-finals of the M25 ($25,000) Bhopal Open but lost to his doubles partner, Nitin Sinha.

ATHLETICS

At the Indian Open Athletics Meet in June 2025 at the Sri Kanteerava Stadium, Guruprasad CG won silver in the 200m sprint in 22.12 seconds, finishing behind Shekhar Tomer of Chhattisgarh, who won gold in 22.08 seconds.

CUESPORTS

Cuesports champion Pankaj Advani had a highly successful year, winning the 2025 Asian Snooker Championship, the CCI Billiards Classic, and silver at the IBSF World 6-Red Snooker Championship. He also led India to top honours at the Asian Team Snooker Championship.

SHOOTING

In shooting, Karnataka shooters had a strong 2025. Dakshya Singh, Sashreek Mitra, and Jonathan Gavin Antony won medals at state and national levels in pistol and rifle events. Onkar Vikas Waghamare won silver in the 0.177 Peep Sight Air Rifle (Youth Men) at the All India KSS Shooting Championship. Jonathan Gavin Antony claimed individual gold in the 0.177 Air Pistol at the 38th National Games.

Sashreek Mitra won 10m Air Pistol gold at various levels, also claiming four individual golds, two team golds, and two team silvers at State Championships.

Overall, the performances of Karnataka men, both juniors and seniors, were satisfying and hold promise for an even stronger showing in 2026.

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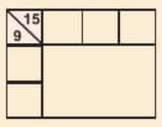
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

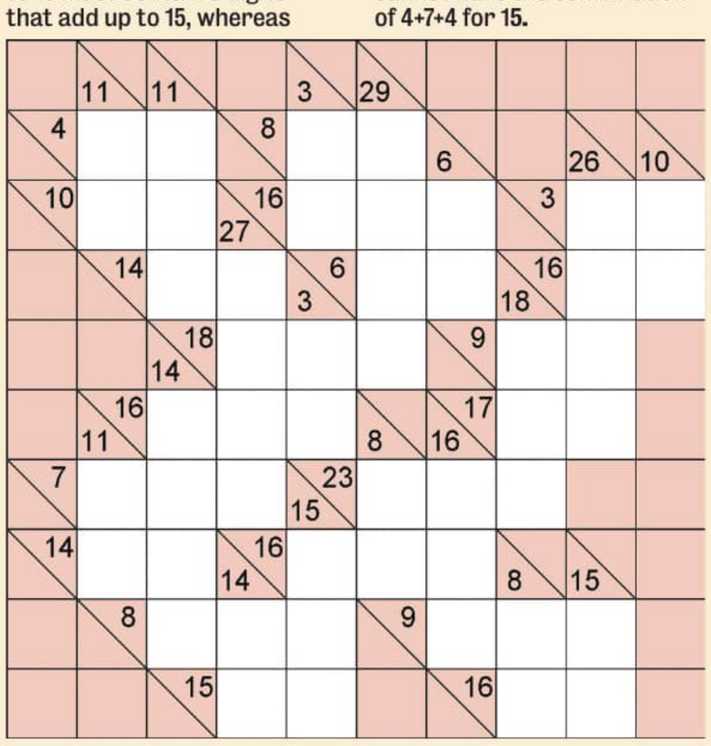
A man covers a distance by walking and returns by running. The total time taken by him is 2 hours 15 minutes. If he had walked the entire distance, it would have taken him 3 hours 45 minutes. How much time will he take if he covers the entire distance by running?

Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Linemaro

I would say god bless you, but it seems like he already did

Mindchow

The truest help we can render an afflicted man is not to take his burden from him, but to call out his best energy, that he may be able to bear the burden

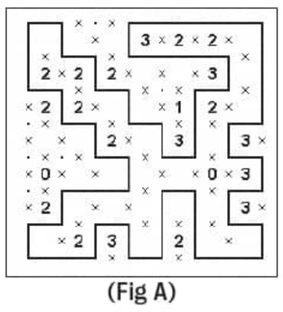
Joke of the day

I finally know what distinguishes man from the other beasts: financial worries

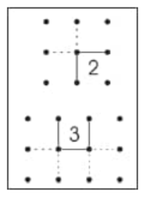
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

SudokuChallenge

	1		3					
8				2		7		4
	3	4		8		6		
					5		6	2
5				4				3
6	9		2					
		3		5		1	7	
7		5		3				6
					6		4	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy

= 3

2 3 7 9

Medium

= 19

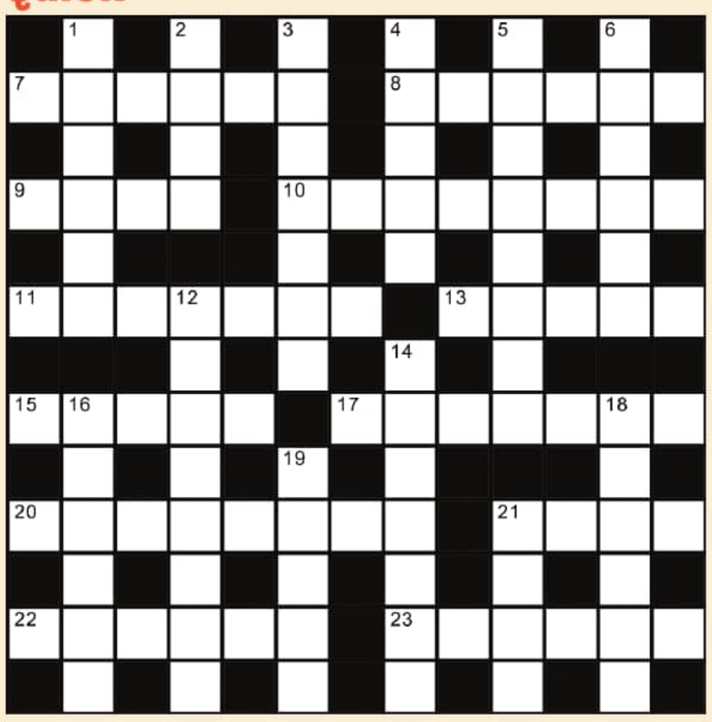
9 6 5 2

Hard

= 64

4 5 5 6

Quick



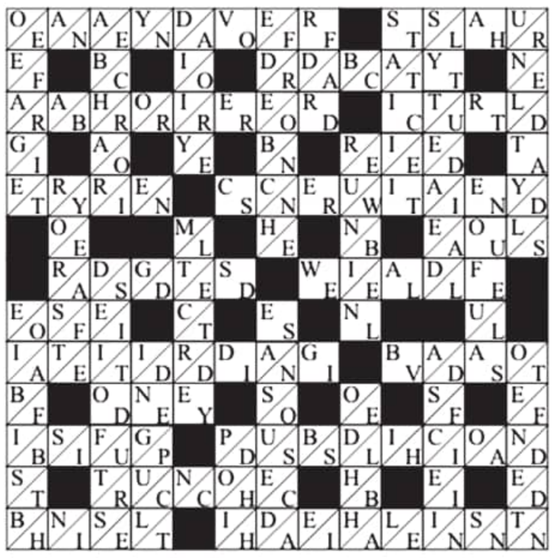
ACROSS

7 Himalayan cedar–"do read" anagram (6)
8 Employee (6)
9 Sans serif or Arial (4)
10 Like a cobra (8)
11 Planned undertaking (7)
13 Disagreement (5)
15 ___ Hills: Bangalore's highest point (5)
17 Persons who let on lease (7)
20 Directly between two individuals (3,2,3)
21 Fail to win (4)
22 Celestial body (6)
23 Cluttered (6)

DOWN

1 Autobiography (6)
2 Prepare for printing (4)
3 Freedom from public intrusion (7)
4 Having debts (5)
5 Murmurs in discontent (8)
6 Theatrical productions (6)
12 Envy (8)
14 Income (7)
16 Late Nawab of Pataudi (6)
18 Occupy (6)
19 Woo (5)
21 Harp-like musical instrument (4)

Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1 H	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

1 Allah; 6 Bail I; 7 Le did; 8 Akola; 9 Cruel

DOWN

1 Auk hi; 2 All do; 3 I call; 4 Ale be; 5 Laird

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Paper is missing. 2. Back of chair is different. 3. Man's sweater is different. 4. Boy's hair is different. 5. Top of desk is different. 6. Boy's collar is different.

Mensapuzzle

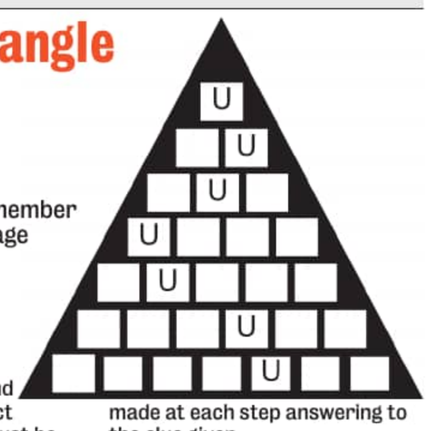
Which number goes in the third star?

Riddler

My first is double twenty-one but twice of twenty-two, Decipher it and you will see that statement is quite true. My next two are just three apart, or, looking at the link, You'll have the answer easily and will not have to think. My fourth is so more ways than one, so long as you can spell, While my fifth splits first and second, so what is it? Can you tell? It may seem like these words of rhyme are nonsense things to say, Though the five together are right here (two ways) so what are they?

Alpha triangle

1 A type of turn
2 Xi preceder
3 Brewing vessel
4 Single entity
5 Loose garment
6 Admit as a new member
7 Channel or passage



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

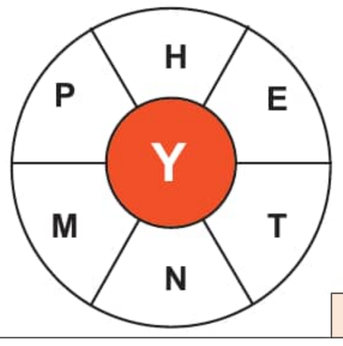
Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: I EQUALS G

WQK JBGV OMV WJ KBNJV MBVWQSBI SB WQSP GSXK SP WJ KMFB SW XSFPW.

Bull's eye



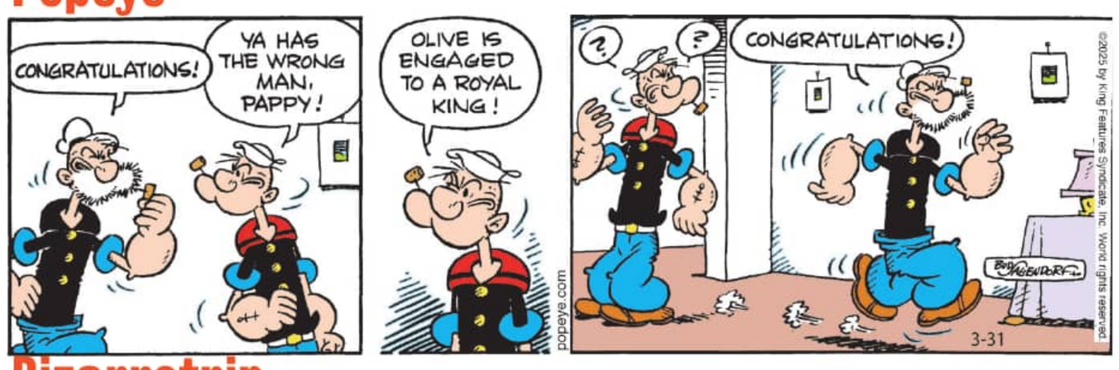
How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; **08** Good; **10** Outstanding

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip

We are pet-friendly, and one floor accepts humans if they're leashed during the day and crated overnight.
Wayno & Piraro 9.19.25
BIZARRO.COM ©2025 BIZARRO STUDIOS Dist. by King Features

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

I MISJUDGED YOU, KEVIN. I REALLY THOUGHT YOU WERE GONNA GET US INTO TROUBLE, BUT IT ALL WORKED OUT!
LET'S MAKE UP OVER A FEW KENTUCKY ICED TEAS.
I'LL GET US SOME! ON ME!
UH, GUYS...
I THINK WE'RE STUCK IN HERE.
DO NOT ENTER
HEART OF THE CITY © 2025 ANDREWS MCMEEL
@COMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

LILLIAN TELLS ME THAT YOU'D BE A GOOD FIT FOR OUR CHOIR.
HAVE YOU HAD MUCH SINGING EXPERIENCE?
NOT REALLY...
UNLESS YOU COUNT KARAOKE NIGHT AT THE BOWLING ALLEY.
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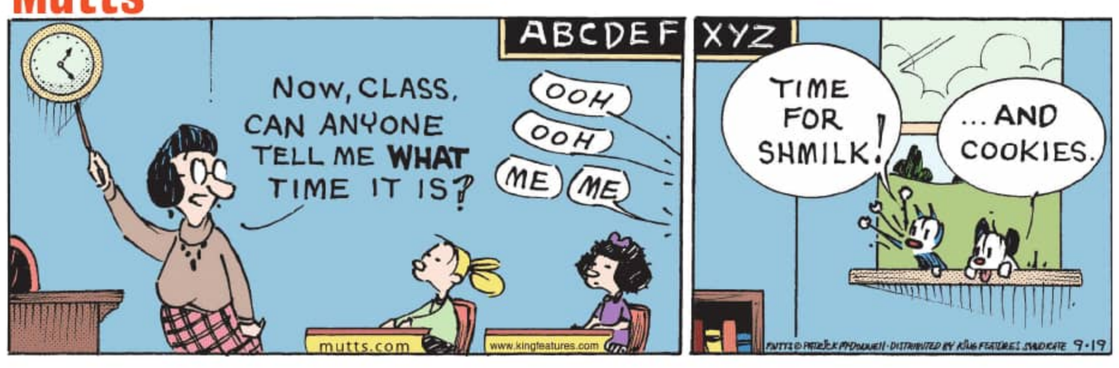
tombatiuk.com/books
BATIUK & DAVIS
9-19

Mutts



WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

A moment of self-doubt may surface concerning the vastness of your goals. Counteract this by celebrating one major accomplishment from the past quarter. Acknowledge the effort expended and the milestone reached. This positive reflection refuels your drive, reminding you that every significant structure is built one successful step at a time. Keep scaling upward patiently.

Aries Mar 21–Apr 20

Spiritual connection deepens today, strengthening inner peace. Investment gains appear likely, and workplace bonds with superiors improve, possibly leading to promotion. Social importance and influence rise steadily now.

Taurus Apr 21–May 20

Boss notices your efforts and awards responsibility; expect recognition and higher o ce positions. Profits may dip, avoid financial manoeuvres. Explore ideas for change as new directions begin; today marks the start of meaningful transitions.

Gemini May 21–Jun 21

Moon blesses you, stuck payments clear and a lumpsum arrival is possible. Promotions and new projects appear, while students experience improved focus. Financial relief and professional momentum brighten the day significantly.

Cancer Jun 22–July 23

Your communication skills resolve banking issues; domestic tensions could arise from di ering opinions. Consider upskilling via courses to advance career prospects while maintaining calm in household discussions to preserve harmony.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Job changes feel likely; romantic news uplifts your spirit. Parents require attention today. New ventures receive favourable support, start initiatives now while channeling family commitments with balance and clarity throughout the day.

Virgo Aug 24–Sep 23

Read documents carefully before signing; parents' health demands attention, so prioritise care and preventive measures. Keep environments clean for wellbeing. Students distracted, allow a short restorative break to regain focus and clarity.

Libra Sep 24–Oct 22

Inner peace and financial backing foster investment potential today; consider property or entrepreneurial starts. Parental bonds deepen. Singles should pause from romance and instead focus on stability and long-term plans for growth.

Scorpio Oct 23–Nov 22

Happiness returns as past losses convert to gains; work improves significantly. Couples discuss next steps in relationships, while children's health requires vigilance. Embrace positive changes and rebuild momentum confidently and joyfully.

Sagittarius Nov 23–Dec 22

Health is favourable and spiritual visits may occur solo; consider donating generously. Friends and family seek your counsel. An overseas work trip opportunity might surface, explore possibilities and prepare thoughtfully for travel prospects.

Capricorn Dec 23–Jan 20

Conspiracy fears surface around partnerships, beware of misunder-standings. Singles may feel attracted to colleagues; parents question career choices causing friction. If diabetic or ill, stay close to home and manage health responsibly today.

Aquarius Jan 21–Feb 19

Workload intensifies, causing domestic strain; attend to your partner's needs to maintain relationship balance. New business partnership starters may begin; avoid investments now. Focus on communication and sustainable workflow management.

Pisces Feb 20–Mar 20

Old health issues resolve and energy returns; you will excel at work while leading colleagues admirably. Clean your space and harness strong student focus for study. Use renewed vitality to organise and advance ambitious goals today.

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Rushita, Bangaluru

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M Time spent walking half the distance; ½ of 3 hours and 45 minutes is 1 hour 30 minutes + 22 minutes + 30 seconds; Convert to minutes
60+30+22+0.5 = 112.5
2 hours and 15 minutes ; (known walking+ running time) convert to minutes
120 + 15 = 135
Subtract walking half the distance; 135 – 112.5 = 22.5
= time spent running half the distance in minutes.
Double this for time to run whole distance
22.5*2 = 45 minutes

RIDDLER Words

H	A	L	A	L
A	L	I	B	I
I	D	L	E	D
K	O	A	L	A
U	L	C	E	R

FAST FIVE

STRIKE OUT

H	I	S	T		I	D	E	A	L	I	S	T		
S		R	U	C	H	E		B		I		E		
I	S	U	P		P	U	B	L	I	C	A	N		
F		O	N	E		S		E		S		E		
A	T	T	I	R	I	N	G		V	A	S	T		
O	S	E		T		E		N				L		
	A	D	D	E	D		W	I	L	D	E			
	E			M		H		B		E	O	S		
E	Y	R	E		S	C	R	U	T	I	N	Y		
G		O		Y	N		R	E	D		A			
F	B	H	O	R	R	A	D		C	U	R	L	E	
A	B	H	O	R	R	A	B	A	T			E		
O	N	A	N	D	O	F	F		T	S	A	R		

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE

29. The sum of the numerical values of the three letters.

QUOTE UNCODE

The only way to enjoy anything in this life is to earn it first.

BULL'S EYE

empty, hymen, hymn, hype, myth, nymph, NYMPHET, they, thyme, type

SUDOKU

2	1	7	3	6	4	5	8	9
8	5	6	1	2	9	7	3	4
9	3	4	5	8	7	6	2	1
3	4	1	7	9	5	8	6	2
5	7	2	6	4	8	9	1	3
6	9	8	2	1	3	4	5	7
4	6	3	9	5	2	1	7	8
7	8	5	4	3	1	2	9	6
1	2	9	8	7	6	3	4	5

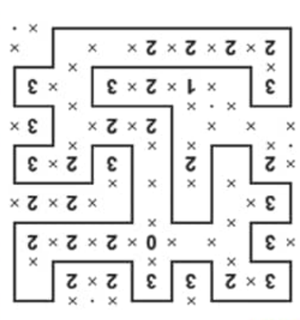
ALPHA TRIANGLE

U, Nu, Tun, Unit, Tunic, Induct, Conduit.

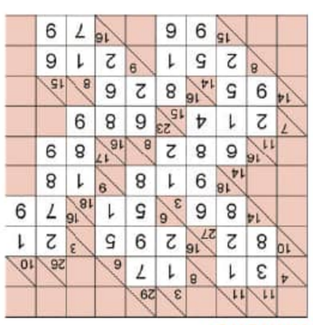
GO FIGURE

Easy
7 – 9 + 2 + 3 = 3
6 x 5 – 2 – 9 = 19
Medium
5 + 5 + 6 x 4 = 64
Hard

LOOP



KAKURO



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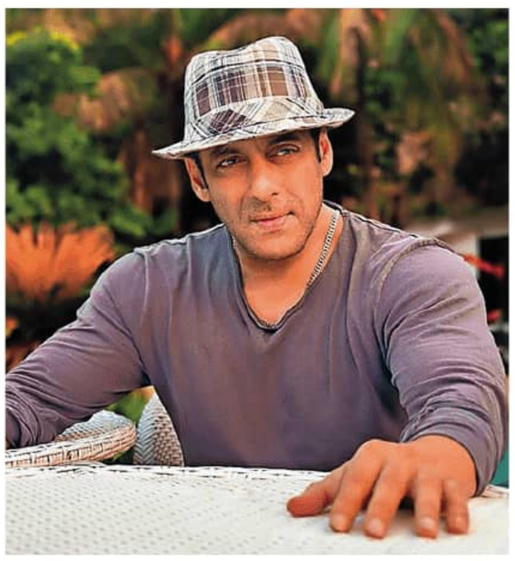
Birthday boy says thanks



Salman Khan entered the 60’s club over the weekend as he rang in his birthday surrounded by family and his closest friends. Everyone from his fans to his Bollywood BFFs took to their social media handles to get creative with their wishes as they greeted him on his milestone birthday. On Monday, the actor made sure to reciprocate the love and extend his blessings to all. Taking to his social media handle, the superstar shared a cool photo of himself, presumably from his Panvel farmhouse. In his message, Salman wrote, “Thank u for all your love n good wishes means a lot god bless u all vit health n happiness.”

About Salman’s birthday bash

Salman celebrated his 60th birthday at his Panvel farmhouse and called over his closest friends for the closed-door bash. Videos and photos from the celebrations had gone viral, showing Salman cutting his birthday cake alongside his father, Salim Khan, as his family gathered around him to sing the birthday song along with a host of celebrity friends.

– ETimes

What manly means

Ishaan Khatter shares his thoughts on redefining manhood

Ishaan Khatter stands out in a movie world full of super-tough heroes by adding feelings and depth to his parts. He shows strength can mix with being open, unlike many other actors. Lately, he said, women directors helped shape his career and changed how he sees manhood.

Candid take on manhood

At the 2025 Yuvaa All Stars Roundtable, Ishaan got real about his definition of manhood. He said, “Men are not taught to be men; they’re just taught not to be women. A lot of my understanding of what it means to be a man is in correlation with the relationship between men and women. Masculinity, to me, has been defined by the fact that I have been raised by a single mother.”

Born to actors Rajesh Khattar and Neelima Azim, who split when he was only six, Ishaan says those childhood moments molded his views on gender as well as his life and career style. From his 2017 debut, he has teamed up with notable directors like Mira Nair, Nupur Asthana, and Priyanka Ghose.

Insights from female filmmakers

On working with women filmmakers, Ishaan noted, “Because I have been subject to the female gaze and I have been privy to it, main usko kuch hadd tak samajh paaya hoon (I have understood it to some extent). Eight years of my career so far, I think I have worked with 50 per cent female makers. Ek alag nazariya samajh paana bahut badi taaqat hoti hai (To understand a different perspective is a great strength), and that is what cinema is for. That is what we all do. The job is empathy.”

2025 career highlights

In 2025, Ishaan Khatter sparkled in Neeraj Ghaywan’s celebrated film ‘Homebound’, picked as India’s Oscar submission. His role in the Netflix drama ‘The Royals’ further highlighted his skill in both movies and series.

– ETimes

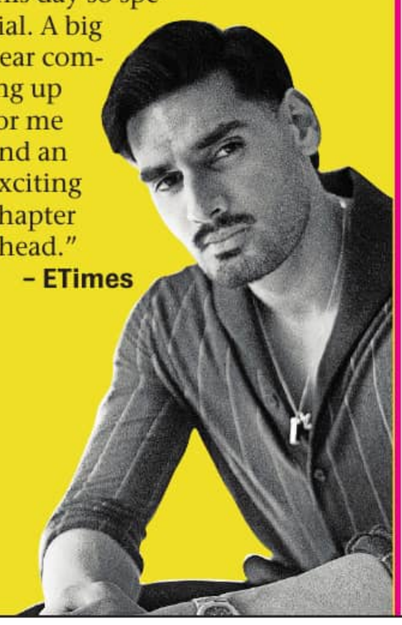
Big 3-0, bigger dreams ahead

Actor Ahan Shetty rang in his 30th birthday in the company of close friends and family, marking the milestone with warmth and gratitude.

Reflecting on the moment, he said that a big year lies ahead, calling it the beginning of an exciting new chapter in his journey. Ahan took to his social media account, where he shared a string of images and clips from his quaint birthday celebrations with his friends and family. Ahan posted a heartfelt note, expressing gratitude for the love, wishes and constant support that made the day memorable.

He wrote: “A brand new decade surrounded by the people who mean so much to me, I honestly couldn’t have asked for a better way to step into my 30s. Feeling incredibly grateful for the love, the wishes, and the constant support. Thank you to everyone who made this day so special. A big year coming up for me and an exciting chapter ahead.”

– ETimes

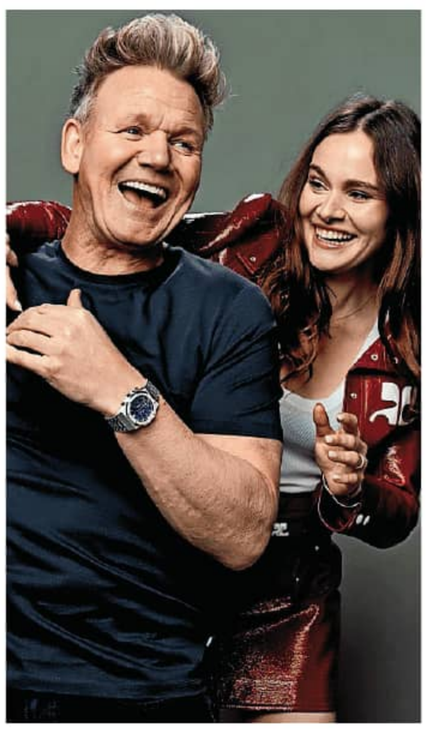


Ramsay’s proud daddy moment

Holly Ramsay, daughter of the famed celebrity chef, Gordon Ramsay, is officially married. The star’s beloved daughter recently tied the knot with Adam Peaty, a professional Olympic athlete. The proud dad of three could not contain his excitement as he shared the news with the world on his social media account.

In a social media post which was shared on Ramsay’s account on Saturday, the father-daughter duo posed for the camera in the first photo. He rejoiced and celebrated the couple in their celebratory moment. The photos were posted along with the caption, “I’m truly so lucky being able to walk this beautiful bride down the aisle and gaining an incredible son in law @adam_peaty ! I love you so much @hollyramsayy and couldn’t be a prouder Dad xxx.”

– ETimes



SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Sweet dreams

The title poster of LSD (Laila’s Sweet Dream) was launched on Saturday at MMB Legacy. Shakti Prasad makes his debut as a director with the movie LSD in which Chaitra J Achar is playing a key role. Chaitra is known for various Kannada movies like Sapta Sagaradaache Ello, Toby, and Blink. Jayaram Devasamudra is supporting the movie under the Suram Movies banner.

“Our objective is to encourage newcomers. I agreed to bankroll this movie when director Shakti Prasad narrated the script. The script is very interesting. Chaitra J Achar, playback singer and theatre artiste MD Pallavi, and Avinash are assigned to play key roles,” said producer Jayaram Devasamudra.

“LSD is a different movie. It highlights the bonding between mother and daughter. Veteran actor Avinash is playing a businessman in the movie. The first schedule of the shooting is completed. The second schedule of shooting is expected to commence from January 15. Mithun Mukundan is the music director, while Rithesh is working as a cinematographer for this movie,” director Shakti Prasad said.

Musical comeback

Arjun Kishore Chandra, who helmed Kannada movie Life 360 in 2017, is making a comeback with a music video, Pranaya Payana, with a tagline Preethiyalli Payana. Chandra also played the lead in Life 360 apart from helming it.

After eight years, he returned to Bengaluru to make the music video. Yet again, he has not only directed but also acted in the music video. Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar has reportedly appreciated the quality of the music video and decided to release it through PRK Audio. Its duration is five and a half minutes and it was bankrolled by Rajasekhar S, a businessman from Bengaluru, under the Sri Sai Gagan Productions banner.

The director said that he was curious to know how people sense smell and feel touched. “The music video aims to convey a message to the public that disability or other problems are not insurmountable in life. It narrates how physically-challenged people achieve goals in their life. The music video was shot at beautiful locations of Ireland,” he said, adding that he is contemplating directing a Kanglish movie shortly and its shooting will be held in Ireland.